



# THE CITY OF WHITTIER

*Gateway to Western Prince William Sound*

P.O. Box 608 • Whittier, Alaska 99693 • (907) 472-2327 • Fax (907) 472-2404

**WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY JUNE 15, 2021  
7:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

## MINUTES

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dave Dickason called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### 2. OPENING CEREMONY

Mayor Dave Dickason led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. ROLL CALL

#### A. Council members present and establishing a quorum:

Victor Shen, Dan Blair, Monty Irvin, David Pinquoch, Tom Wagner, and Dave Dickason.

**MOTION:** Dan Blair made a motion to excuse Peter Denmark from tonight's meeting

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

(Dave Dickason asked the Council if anyone would like to declare a conflict of interest on agenda items. No declarations were made.)

#### B. Administration Present:

Jim Hunt, City Manager

Annie Reeves, Assistant City Manager

Naelene Matsumiya, City Clerk

Kris Erchinger, Finance Director

Scott Korbe, Public Works Director

Dave Borg, Harbormaster

Andre Achee, Police Chief



**Others Present:** Michaelo Medez, Roselle Medez, Hope Borg, Charlene Arneson, Cherie Curry, Mike Bender, and Ted Spencer

#### **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

May 18, 2021, City Council Regular Meeting

**MOTION:** Dan Blair made a motion to approve the May 18, 2021 City Council regular Meeting minutes as written

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

#### **5. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Dan Blair made a motion to approve the June 15, 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda with amendments to move the Presentation item from 12 to 5a.

**SECOND:** Victor Shen

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. MAYOR'S REPORT**

##### **A. Mayor Report**

Nothing new to report.

##### **B. Vice Mayor Report**

Excused from tonight's meeting and unavailable to give a report.

#### **7. MANAGER'S REPORT**

##### **A. City Manager and Director Reports- Jim Hunt**

Jim reported that he received a call from Jim Kubitz and they are currently working on a collaboration on removing rock from the quarry at the head of the bay and that they are working on a contract for that. Jim Kubitz asked about the old floats and when they will be removed. Dave Dickason asked about options for removal. Jim stated that it comes down to cost and he is working on it. Andre gave an update on EMT volunteers and Jim stated that the City is looking to get rid of outdated fleet. Said that Cooper Landing is looking to get one of our ambulances. Jim encouraged everyone to continue to subscribe to having newspapers delivered to residents in Whittier.

Andre gave an updated on his department. Gave an update on staff and parking violations in Whittier as well as other citations. He reported on a seminar he attended in Valdez for crisis training for the Pacific Northwest. He continued about the site visit from the tsunami maintenance company in Whittier and they are thinking of adding another tsunami tower in Whittier.

Dave Dickason asked about the dispatch service. Andre said tests have been done and the current contract ends at the end of the calendar year.

Victor Shen asked about the frequency of tsunami drills. Andre responded that he is uncertain but updated on weekly tests.

Tom Wagner commended response time for the Public Safety Department on an incident in which response time was 6 minutes.

Monty mentioned his fix-it ticket. Andre stated that he had not received an answer for that.



Dave Borg reported that the harbor seems to be going well. Mentioned that king salmon are arriving on Thursday. Thanked Captain Trey with Seatow for his assistance as the harbor does not have a skiff now. Working with Shannon Tolman to build a new fish cleaning station by the gangway to extend availability.

Dave Dickason asked about the RV dump-station/air compressor. He asked about a timeline.

Dave Borg responded that it is not in his department, but he is in communication with the Public Works department. As of right now, the most he could recommend is Girdwood.

Annie Reeves gave a brief summary of the Emergency response conference that Andre had mentioned/attended. She went on to mention what she learned and the exercises that were done while participating in the seminar.

Monty stated that it sounds like the City may be introducing a convenience to a place that has none.

Annie responded that it highlights and illustrates that the City will have to enter into MOA's. She stated that communicating what the City's needs are and trying to get to a point of agreement for the benefit the whole community.

Kris Erchinger gave a recap on the overview of the audit that had been completed. She stated that it was smooth and efficient. She reported to the Council that she is still negotiating with FEMA for COVID grant opportunity. She stated that it's possible that there are costs that they will not cover. She continued that because of the uniqueness of the community, a lot of our resources that helped us navigate through the pandemic was our law firm and it is uncertain FEMA will cover those costs. She gave briefings on certain funds and their deficits/surplus. She concluded that it was all good news and to add that the City qualified for discounts in our insurance. Closing out grant with the State as the City takes possession of new ambulance. She directed the Council to their packets and spoke about taxes. She ended her report by giving praise to Lydia Jacoby who hails from Alaska and had taken 2<sup>nd</sup> place to the champion in the Olympic finals in the 100 meters breaststroke. Lydia broke record for her age group; she is 17. She also gave kudos to Solomon D'Amico and Meghan O'Leary, Lydia's coaches. Meghan is a captain for the Lazy Otter Charters.

Dave Dickason asked about lease credits. Kris explained.

Dan Blair asked about fencing for the basketball court. Council gave consensus to allow the city to put up fencing. Dan asked Jim about the tank farm land status. Jim responded that it is in the hands of our attorney. Dan replied that he is only asking because the tank farm land has a mote that could be solution to the old floats as part of the encapsulation process. Jim stated his appreciation to that plan but that would mean to dig up the old floats once development begins. Dan also asked Jim if there's been conversation for mitigating fish slime this year. Jim said that he encouraged stakeholders to speak to the City as the City is dealing with a properly certified and permitted to release that into the water. He is unsure how to address that. Dan gave some options. Dave Borg responded that he has no control over what the State and the DEC permit.

## **8. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Planning Commission**

Nothing new to report



**B. Port & Harbor Commission**

Nothing new to report

**C. Parks & Recreation Committee**

Victor Shen talked about the clean up at the head of the bay, volunteer day and cleared some brush on the Whittier Cree trail. Dave Dickason said he is working on a Parks and Recreation master plan.

**D. Whittier Community School**

Nothing new to report

**E. Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp.**

Nothing new to report

**F. Regional Citizen's Advisory Council**

Nothing new to report

**9. CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**10. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

None

**11. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NON-ORDINANCE)**

None

**12. PRESENTATIONS (Item moved to 5a)**

**Winfluence Strategies – Cherie Curry**

Cheri Curry gave a presentation about Winfluence and their goals. She gave a brief history of her life as an Alaska and her time in working with Winfluence. She disclosed that this presentation is not an attack on the Alaska Railroad. She stated that the Public Education Campaign is to hold the Alaska Railroad accountable to the citizens of Alaska and to collect support from interested parties all over the state who have been affected by the injustices of the Alaska Railroad. The goal is to help communities along the rail belt and make it so that their voices are heard by the legislation and the Governor of Alaska as well.

**13. ORDINANCES (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Public Hearing)**

A. Ordinance #02-2021 – An Ordinance of The City Council of Whittier, Alaska Amending WMC Chapter 2.54 To Remove All Decision-Making Duties of The Port and Harbor Commission, Codify Process for Providing Recommendations to Council, and Remove Inconsistencies and Redundancy in the Reasons for and Processes Surrounding the Declaration of a Vacancy on the Commission.

**MOTION:** Dan Blair made a motion to open a Public Hearing for Ordinance #02-2021 at 8:06 pm.

**SECOND:** Monty Irvin

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

No public testimony

**MOTION:** Dan Blair made a motion to close public testimony part of the public hearing and open it



up for Council discussion.

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

Council discussion:

David Pinquoch pointed out a sentence that he believes was not meant to be struck and it was in regarding open meetings for the Commission. Jim agreed it should have not been struck. Asked for a friendly amendment to amend the ordinance so that the sentence was included in the final code.

**MOTION:** Tom Wagner made a motion to close the Public Hearing and adopt Ordinance #02-2021 with the amendments and resume the Regular Meeting

**SECOND:** Monty Irvin

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

#### **14. RESOLUTIONS**

A. Resolution #14-2021 – A Resolution of the City of Whittier, Alaska, Conceptual Recreation Plan for Shotgun Cove Road Extension

Council asked questions about the 13 acres that were “yet to be defined.” Jim and Scott explained. Jim said that this will send a signal that we are working on it. Council discussed further. Monty commended staff for working on this but he expressed his concerns about the lands involved. Tom Wagner explained that this is unclear to him as it seems like it is doing nothing and pretending it is doing something. Jim responded.

**MOTION:** Victor Shen made a motion to adopt Resolution #14-2021

**SECOND:** Dan Blair

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed 5-1

B. Resolution #15-2021 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Whittier, Alaska, Rescinding Resolution #32-2019 and Amending the Participation Agreement with the Public Employees’ Retirement System

Kris explained the rescinding of resolution #32-2019 and continued that the State had notified the City that the request should have been submitted within 90 days of having the actuaries compute the cost of taking the position out and she did not see that it was a requirement, but to put it short, the City had missed the deadline. She explained that in order to go forward, the Council will have to pass another resolution. Dan asked Kris about the termination costs and if she were to retire, would it cost the City to enroll back into the PERS program. Kris explained that it would not cost the City to opt back into the PERS system.

**MOTION:** Dan Blair made a motion to adopt Resolution #15-2021

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously



C. Resolution #16-2021 – A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Whittier, Alaska Authorizing The City Manager To Contribute No More Than \$5,000 From The Community Support Line Item In The City Council Budget Towards The Restoration Of Public Restrooms And Related Facilities In The Harbor Waterfront Area, And Appropriating Funds

Dave Borg summarized that Dan Blair had asked to restore the restrooms. He explained the areas of concern and the cost of the project. He mentioned the cost of construction projects. Council discussed the funds in which the money will be used from.

**MOTION:** Tom Wagner made a motion to adopt Resolution #16-2021

**SECOND:** Victor Shen

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

D. Resolution #17-2021 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Whittier, Alaska Authorizing Purchase of a Harbor Skiff for an Amount Not to Exceed \$40,000 to Replace the Skiff Currently at the End of its Service Life, and Appropriating Funds

David Pinquoch expressed his support in fixing the skiff, not buying a new one. He offered to collect bids from a local welder. He explained the age and use of the harbor skiff and its motors and reiterated that he does not support the resolution. Dave Borg stated that he had spoken to the welder, and they recommended reskinning the skiff but it would not be cost effective. Tom Wanger asked how much it would be to reskin it. Dave replied that even if it was reskinned, it would not be cost effective. Dave commented that he will continue to do his research. Monty asked about the engine. Dave Borg responded that he would like to have more latitude. Council discussed a not-to-exceed amount, but talked more about cost of reskinning. Dave Borg stated that he will bring bids to the Council.

**MOTION:** Victor Shen made a motion to adopt Resolution #17-2021

**SECOND:** Tom Wanger

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion fails, 3-3

E. Resolution #18-2021 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Whittier, Alaska Authorizing Repairs to the City Dock Crane in an Amount Not to Exceed \$8,000 and Appropriating Funds

Dave Borg explained that there is seal that is beginning to leak and he expressed concerns about catastrophic failure if it were being used. He explained further. Said his best estimate was it should not cost more than \$8,000. He explained the crane is hard to track down in terms of parts because of how old it was and its origin. Dave Pinquoch asked about a replacement crane. Jim explained that the City still owns it, but it much too large and installation would include changing base infrastructure.

**MOTION:** Victor Shen made a motion to adopt Resolution #18-2021

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** None



**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

F. Resolution #19-2021 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Whittier, Alaska  
Authorizing the Harbormaster To Decommission the City-Owned Boat Lift Rather than to Incur  
\$25,000 in Repair Costs

Council discussed the topic with Dave and Jim. Dave explained that he had brought the issue up with the Port and Harbor Commission and was looking to spend upwards of \$20-\$30,000 to get the lift up to speed. Council advised Dave to collect an engineer evaluation and recommended to table the resolution until then.

**MOTION:** Dan Blair made a motion to table Resolution #19-2021 until an engineering evaluation is done.

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

G. Resolution #20-2021 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Whittier, Alaska  
Approving and adopting the Whittier Executive Session Guidelines

David Pinquoch disclosed that since he had not read the policy he will not vote on it. Naelene, Jim and Annie explained the policy and stressed the importance of record keeping and in the future items from executive session can be used to summarize and refresh the Council's memory.

**MOTION:** Dan Blair made a motion to adopt Resolution #20-2021

**SECOND:** Tom Wagner

**DISCUSSION:** None

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

## **15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Res. #12-2021, Regarding Ad Hoc Committee  
item was not discussed.

## **16. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Schedule a Worksession to discuss Options to Recover the Cost of Trash Services  
Council agreed to have a worksession before the next meeting; Tuesday, July 20 at 6:00 pm.

B. Personnel Policy and Procedures

Annie gave an update and stated that the attorney had questions about two items about carrying open fire and reimbursement for training costs. Explained that it was on the agenda to move to unfinished business and be open for discussion for future meetings.

## **17. COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

Tom Wagner asked about open gym. Naelene responded that she was going to look into it.

Dan Blair asked about the gun-range. Andre and Jim explained that in the area, the City risks liability for someone walking into live-fire. Jim specified the code and stated that the gun range had been operating illegally and that only Police Officers are allowed to use it for training purposes. Council discussed options for the gun range for some time.

**18. CITIZEN'S DISCUSSION**

Mike Bender directed the Council to the letter that was submitted to the Council. Jim responded. Ted Spencer presented a panel of Whittier history of a locomotive of the Alaska Railroad.


**19. COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

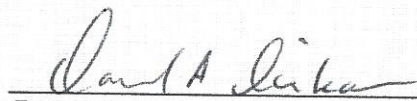
None

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

Council adjourned the meeting at 9:55pm

**ATTEST:**

  
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Naelene Matsumiya  
City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Dickason  
Mayor